THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) According to the "Corruption Perception Index, 2006" published by the Transparency International, India is ranked at 70th place out of a total of 163 countries.

(b) The Government has not undertaken any surveyor study in this regard and therefore, can not subscribe to this findings.

(c) The Government is fully committed to implement its policy of "Zero Tolerance" on corruption and is moving progressively to eradicate corruption from all spheres of life. Several steps have been initiated to remove corruption and to improve functioning of Government. Important among these steps are:-

(a) Enactment of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003;

(b) Whistle Blowers Resolution, 2004;

(c) Enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005;

(d) The pro-active involvement of Ministry/Department through Annual Action Plan on Vigilance;

(e) Issue of comprehensive instructions on transparency in tendering and contracting processes by the CVC.

Government organizations are also constantly engaged in improving their functioning through e-Govemance, issue of Citizen Charters and simplification of procedures and systems, which are aimed at eradicating corruption by improving transparency and accountability.

Public servants indulging in corruption

1297. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 2006, CBI booked 1917 public servants from different Government agencies for allegedly indulging in corruption;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that were booked in the years 2004 and 2005;

(c) the number of cases that are pending primarily due to unavailability of prosecution sanction, year-wise; and

(d) the number of months that Government take to grant sanction in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2004 and 2005, the CBI registered 926 and 915 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act respectively.

(c) The number of the CBI cases pending for prosecution sanction, year-wise, are indicated as under:-

As on 31.122004	As on 31.12.2005	**As** on 31.12.2006	As on 31.072007
155	96	111	81

(d) As per directions of the Supreme Court in the case of Vineet Narain *Vs* Union of India, "a time limit of 3 months has been fixed for grant of sanction for prosecution. However, additional time of one month **is** allowed in cases where consultation is required with the Attorney General (AG) or any Law Officer in **the** AG's office",

Appeals received by CIC/SICs

1298. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of appeals against denial of information, till date, received by Central Information Commission/State Information Commissions and their disposal;

(b) whether most of such appeals have been rejected; and

(c) if so, whether it reflects that CIC/ SICs suffer from bureaucratic constraint to share/divulge information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRl SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The total number of appeals filed in the Central Information Commission (CIC) upto 14.08.2007 alleging unsatisfactory response/denial of information is 8169. Information in respect of State Information Commissions is not centrally maintained.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Places for training of IAS officers

†1299. SHRl LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of places where IAS officers are sent for training by Government and the number of the officers who have been sent for training during the last five years and the names of the countries where they were sent;

(b) the details thereof country-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether Government are considering a plan to make in service training in USA or the institutes affiliated to it compulsory; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.